

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the final office action of August 4, 2011.

Previously-withdrawn claims 4-11 have been canceled. Claims 28 and 32 also have been canceled. Claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations from its base claim (claim 28), which has been canceled. Claim 30 has been amended to depend from claim 29 instead of now-canceled claim 28. No new subject matter has been added.

The applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing claim amendments pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116(b)(1) which indicates that “[a]fter a . . . final action . . . in an application . . . , but before . . . filing an appeal . . . (1) An amendment may be made canceling claims” and because the amendments place all claims in condition for allowance without requiring further substantive consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicant thanks the examiner for acknowledging that claims 1, 3, 12-16, 18-24, 26, 27 and 31 have been allowed.

The applicant also thanks the examiner for acknowledging that claims 29 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As indicated above, claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim (28) and any intervening claims, of which there were none.

Accordingly claim 29, as amended, is allowable.

Claim 30 depends from claim 29 and is allowable for at least that reason.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 28 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,599,304 (“Shaari”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,360,414 (“Yarger”).

Claims 28 and 32 have been canceled.

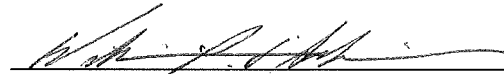
Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

A petition for a three-month extension of time is enclosed. The required fee is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any additional charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Docket No. 27527-0039001.

Respectfully submitted,

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William O'Sullivan
Reg. No. 59,005

Customer Number 26211
Fish & Richardson P.C.
Telephone: (212) 765-5070
Facsimile: (877) 769-7945